

All Things Are Yours

In these words the apostle summed up the Christian's inventory. The scope of that inventory has a wide one. It swept up everything that is. You might take a broom and industriously whisk it all over the universe in the vain search of a crumb of any value left out of it. All things are yours. Why not check on that bank account? Even Vanderbilt or Rockefeller would be as poor as Job's proverbial turkey if by some strange hallucination he should refuse to credit any of his titles and evidences of possession. Yet often our spiritual hallucination of poverty and destitution is none the less insane. No wonder there are so many shabby Christians, tho they have such a wardrobe; or hungry, tho they have such a table; or paupers, tho all things are theirs.

Literature for the Second Quarter

The Lesson Helps for second quarter, 1899, are now ready for the mail and orders will be filled as rapidly as they come in. Very little change has been made in the Quarterly, but improvements in Cheering Words are contemplated beginning with May 1, probably as early as the middle of April. We trust the Brethren church will continue the liberal patronage heretofore accorded its Sunday School Literature. We desire to call special attention to the fact that the lessons of this quarter cover a very important portion of God's word, John's gospel from chapter 11 to the end. This scripture includes the narrative of the washing of the disciples' feet, the institution of the Lord's supper, and other ordinances of the Lord's house, also the work and the several offices of the Holy Spirit in the economy of God's plan of salvation. These lessons afford an excellent opportunity to instil into the minds of the young the great and fundamental doctrines of the gospel, and surely it will be a fatal mistake if pastors everywhere do not take advantage of the opportunity thus afforded. See that your school orders are our literature, and in such abundance that copies of the Quarterly can be given to the strangers that may come within your gates on the Sabbath day.

The Time is Ripe

The closing years of the nineteenth century should mark the grandest triumphs for the cause of temperance ever attained in the history of this righteous warfare against the demon of the liquor traffic. We believe with Dr. Cuyler when he says: "The time is ripe for a new campaign in opposition to the evil that is cursing more homes and destroying more souls than any other in the country. The cradle of temperance reform was in the church of Christ, and all of its most effective triumphs have been wrought by moral power, whether that power was exerted in diminish-

ing the drinking custom or dealing blows for the suppression of the dram shops. An appeal is now made to the churches to open a fresh warfare against the bottle, whether it is found in the social circle, on the household board, or upon the counter of the saloon." True, every word of it, and we wish the power was ours to make these words sink deep down into the heart of every lover of the cause of righteousness and purity. The church of the living God must lead this the greatest of all moral reforms and wisely direct its forces against the greatest curse of this or any other century. It is the Lord's temperance army whose commander in chief is the Lord Jesus Christ, and when once every soldier in this army proves himself as loyal and as true and as heroic as the American soldier did on Cuban soil or in the far away Manila Bay, then will this army triumph over the most formidable foe of the human race, the liquor power, and not four million slaves, not Cuba alone, not any single nation, but the world will sing the song of deliverance. Where is the Hobson in the Christian church who will sink a "Merrimac," and where is the Dewey, or Schley, or Sampson, or the "Rough Rider" who will dare strike the fatal blow that will put an end to this awful iniquity? The church of Christ is responsible for the conduct of this campaign, and woe to him who will turn traitor in this hour of need. What a mighty army the church of Christ would be if every member were loyal and true to the cause which he has espoused! May God raise up a mighty man of valor who will lead this army triumphantly against the gigantic power of the liquor traffic.

Infallible

In a recent letter to the American Catholic church, his Senility the Pope condemns all those tendencies of the church over here which are characterized as Americanisms. Now it happens that the most conspicuous Americanism, in its relation to Catholicism, is the strong sentiment in this country against anything which looks like the union of Church and State. The reference to this sentiment and its condemnation in the Pope's letter was sufficiently plain. Catholicism never changes. Union of Church and State has always been and always will be its central, cherished doctrine. The Pope has never ceased to whine over the loss of his bone, the "temporal possessions," the "patrimony of St. Peter." To this very day we have witnessed the unholy alliance between a corrupt church and a tyrannical State, each helping the other to grievously oppress the people. No true American can regard with indifference the growth of the Catholic church in free America. The very day they feel strong enough to become a distinct political factor in the government, that day will witness the

most serious blow ever delivered against liberty. Tolerance and charity toward this so-called church is but the casting of pearls before swine.

A Noble Resolve

In the journal of an old Puritan divine is found the following noble resolve, which if made and observed by the ministry in general, there would be neither room for pride and conceit on the one hand, and on the other no cause for being discouraged or cast down. We need to realize more and more the ever present God in all our religious assemblies. Here it is: "Resolved that, when I address a large meeting, I shall remember that God is there, and that will make it small; resolved that, when I address a small meeting, I shall remember that God is there, and that will make it great."

The Eloquence of Character

Emerson says: "What you are speaks so loud I cannot hear what you say." Eloquent speech, oratorical power, the magnetism of the pulpit or rostrum, these are the objects of perhaps more youthful ambition than any other. And many is the disappointed preacher and speaker who finds his natural limits far short of this coveted goal, who like Moses is slow and heavy of speech, his rhetoric like faded flowers, his logic a dragging sled, his imagery wingless. Take courage brother, there is one eloquence which you may possess in as eminent a degree as the most gifted of mortals, and that is the eloquence of character. It is a far more efficient weapon than fine speech, will do more good in the world, make more powerfully for righteousness, convert more souls, build up more good causes, salt more raw world. Make the most of it. Let what you are, in purity of life, in unselfishness of purpose, in charity, honesty, godly zeal, all true worth speak so loud that men will not hear your grammatical blunders or your shortcomings in rhetoric. And let the other fellow beware lest his inconsistent, worldly, indifferent life bawl so loud in men's ears that they shall not be able to hear his beautifully rounded periods. Why should he "waste his sweetness on the desert air?"

The Testimony of Numbers

There is a significant lesson in the Lord's severe dealing with David because he numbered Israel. There was something more in David's conduct than a mere literal transgression. In dealing with Old Testament history we must never forget its inlaid symbolism. Two great principles in human conduct stand opposed to each other; on the one hand the tendency to lean upon an arm of flesh, and on the other the duty to lean upon God alone. The latter involves man's highest interests, and all the ultimate blessings which infinite love has provided for him.